

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SAB-02 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 CU-02 USIE-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /063 W
-----062308Z 089653 /63

O R 062210Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2229
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PN
SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATION NON-VIOLENT

1. APPROXIMATELY 2000 PANAMANIAN HIGHSCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED NON-VIOLENTLY AGAINST U.S. PRESENCE IN CANAL ZONE MORNING OF JUNE 6. STUDENTS MARCHED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY TO CONGREGATE IN THE SHALER TRIANGLE AREA (SHALER TRIANGLE IS A TONGUE OF THE CANAL ZONE WHICH JUTS INTO PANAMA) IN MEMORY OF 1966 DEATH OF STUDENT "MARTYR" JUAN NAVAS. ONCE THERE THEY LISTENED TO USUAL ANTI-GRINGO SPEECHES, HAULED DOWN THE U.S. FLAG, AND PLANTED A PANAMANIAN FLAG ON FENCE ACROSS 4TH OF JULY AVENUE. BY NOON STUDENTS HAD DISPERSED WITOUT ANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE. NATIONAL GUARD (GN) RETRIEVED U.S. FLAG AND RETURNED IT TO CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES. ON THE WAY TO SHALER, ONE GROUP OF STUDENTS PASSED EMBASSY, BUT LIMITED THEIR ACTIVITIES TO SPRAY-PAINTING "YANKI" ON A WHITE-WASHED PALM TREE.

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2. SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND FOR SAME REASONS, ABOUT 400 STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED IN COLON. SOME GRAFFITI WERE SPRAYED ONTO BUILDINGS ON THE CZ-PANAMA BORDER. A GROUP OF STUDENTS DELAYED A PANAMA RAILROAD TRAIN AND PAINTED SLOGANS ON IT. NO VIOLENCE IS REPORTED FROM COLON EITHER.

3. COMMENT: COMMEMORATIVE MARCHES

OF THIS NATURE ARE VERY
COMMON IN RESPONSE TO ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEATHS
OF
STUDENT "MARTYRS". MAY 19 WAS ONE, TODAY ANOTHER--OTHERS
WILL FOLLOW. TODAY'S ACTIVITY WAS A BIT LARGER THAN
USUAL; IT WAS HARDLY SPONTANEOUS; IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE
NEWSPAPERS. IT HAD AT LEAST THE TACIT APPROVAL OF LT. COL.
NORIEGA (FN G-2) WHO DOUBTLESS FEELS THAT ANTI-US MARCHES
AND SPEECHES SIPHON OFF STUDENT ENERGIES, AND DIVERT THEM FROM
CRITICISM OF THE GOP.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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